DLTK's Fairy Tale Activities

The Golden Slipper

by Leanne Guenther, based on the Ukrainian folktale. Many countries have versions of the Cinderalla story. The Golden Slipper is the version popular in the Ukraine.

Once upon a time, there was a sweet girl named Olena who lived with her unkind stepmother and stepsister. Her only friend was a gentle heifer named Lily, who always helped her with the impossible tasks given by her stepmother.

Whenever Olena was asked to finish an immense amount of work, Lily would comfort her and use her magical abilities to complete the tasks effortlessly. They spent their days together, strengthening their bond and becoming inseparable friends. Olena cherished Lily, and Lily, in return, did her best to ease Olena's hardships.

One day, the stepmother, filled with jealousy and spite, sold Lily, leaving Olena heartbroken. But before they parted, Lily gave Olena a magical grain of corn and told her to plant it. From this grain, a beautiful willow tree grew, which held the power to grant Olena's

wishes.

Olena wished for lovely dresses to attend church, where she captivated the young Tsarevich. The Tsarevich, determined to find her, devised a plan to leave sticky tar on the floor of the church. When Olena's golden slipper got stuck, she hurried home, leaving it behind.

The Tsarevich searched for the owner of the slipper, visiting every home in the village. At Olena's house, her stepmother hid her away. However, the Tsarevich insisted on meeting her, and when he saw Olena, he knew she was the one. The golden slipper fit her perfectly, and they married, living happily ever after. The stepmother and stepsister were left to ponder their envy and unkindness.

Meanwhile, the magical willow tree continued to grow and flourish, becoming a symbol of hope and love for Olena. Even though Lily was no longer with her, Olena felt her presence whenever she stood under the tree's comforting branches. It reminded her of their time together and the special bond they had shared. Despite her newfound happiness with the Tsarevich, Olena would never forget the gentle heifer who had been her first true friend and protector.

Years later, Olena and the Tsarevich became the loving rulers of the land. They governed with kindness and compassion, ensuring that everyone in their kingdom was treated fairly. Olena's experiences with her stepmother and stepsister taught her the importance of empathy and understanding, and she made it her mission to create a realm where no one would have to suffer as she once had.

The magical willow tree, still standing tall in the palace gardens, remained a testament to Olena's journey and the unbreakable bond she shared with her dear friend, Lily the heifer.

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